

IN THE MATTER OF THE BELSEN TRIALS  
and  
IN THE MATTER  
of the accused HERTA BOTHE and IRENE HAASCHKE.

48

PETITION against SENTENCE of the accused HERTA BOTHE and IRENE HAASCHKE.

The above mentioned accused, (hereinafter called the Petitioners) were arraigned before a Military Court at Luneberg on 17 September 1945 on the following charge, that is to say:-

" With Committing a War Crime in that they at BERGEN BELSEN, GERMANY, between 1 October 1942 and 30 April 1945 when members of the staff of BERGEN BELSEN Concentration Camp responsible for the well being of the persons interned there, in violation of the law and usages of war were together concerned as parties to the ill-treatment of certain of such persons causing the deaths of KEITH MEYER, etc, etc, etc, etc, etc., Allied nationals, and other Allied nationals whose names are unknown, and physical suffering to other persons interned there, Allied nationals and particularly HAROLD OSWALD le DRUILLANE, etc, etc, and other Allied nationals whose names are unknown."

and were found Guilty of the said Charge on 16 November 1945.

The Petitioners were each sentenced by the Court in respect of the said Charge to ten years imprisonment.

Notice of the intention of the Petitioners, to petition against the said sentence was dispatched to the Confirming Officer on 18 November 1945.

The Petitioners do hereby submit this their Petition against the said sentence in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Regulations made under His Majesty's Royal Warrants of 14 June 1945 and of 4 August 1945 on the grounds and for the reasons following, that is to say,

1. The Specific evidence against the Petitioners is contained as follows:-

Against the said HERTA BOTHE in Exhibit 29 the Deposition of ETYL EISENBERG, in exhibit 35 the Deposition of WILHELM GRUNWALD, in exhibit 66 the Deposition of KATHERINE NEIGER, in exhibit 77 the Deposition of SALA SCHIFFERMAN, in exhibit 88 the Deposition of LUBA TRISZINSKA, in exhibit 111 the statement of the accused HERTA EHLERT and in the exhibit 115 the statement of the accused HILDE LOHBAUER modified by her in examination-in-chief in transcript 28 at page 5 and not cross examined and against the said IRENE HAASCHKE in exhibit 66 the Deposition of KATHERINE NEIGER, in exhibit 88 the Deposition of Luba TRISZINSKA, in exhibit 111 the statement of the accused HERTA EHLERT in transcript 10 (Continued on sheet 2)

at pages 19 and 24 the evidence of HANKA ROSENWAYG and in transcript 9  
at pages 11 and 23 the evidence of ILONA STEIN.

2. It is clear from the sentences passed by the Court that the Court did not believe the allegations against the Petitioners of personal killing.
3. Therefore the Petitioners are only to be punished for their own share in the general responsibility for the conditions at BELSEN Concentration Camp.
4. The Petitioners joined the staff of the said Camp at or about the end of February 1945.
5. It is clear from evidence of Brigadier Glyn Hughes (transcript 2 at pages 11 and 28) and the evidence of Doctor Fritz Leo (transcript 11 at pages 28, 29, and 32) that the conditions discovered at the date of Liberation were substantially already in existence at the end of February.
6. The Petitioners held unimportant positions at the said Camp, the accused HERTA BOTHE being in charge of the Wood Kommando and the accused IRENE HAASCHKE being a supervisor in kitchen No 3.
7. The Petitioners cannot be said to be responsible for conditions already existing at the time they joined the staff of the Camp and over which they had no personal control.
8. The accused FRIEDA WALTER was sentenced to three years imprisonment and the accused HILDE LIESEWITZ was sentenced to one years imprisonment.
9. Both these said accused held positions similar to those of the Petitioners.

For the reasons foregoing the Petitioners say that the sentences passed upon them were excessive and now pray that they may be reduced.

Signed by the Defending Officer  
of and for and on behalf of the  
Petitioners this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November  
1945.

J.R. [Signature]  
Mayer/PA